

Internet Town Meeting on America's Coastal Future

<http://coast2025.nos.noaa.gov>



The attributes, qualities and values of the coast that have been cherished for generations are at risk of being

overwhelmed if we continue to neglect our coastal communities and maritime economy, pollute the air, land and water, sacrifice wildlife habitat and agricultural lands, and forget our nation's coastal and maritime heritage. What will America's coast be like 25 years from now if current trends in these areas continue? Representing coastal interests from around the nation, the National Dialogues Partners have developed a vision, called Coastal Futures 2025, that can help shape America's coastal future. The Partners have established an internet town meeting to encourage all who care about the coast to discuss the vision and to share their own views concerning America's coastal future.



Coastal Futures 2025: Dialogue on Sustainable Communities

What will America's coasts be like 25 years from now if current trends in growth, water quality and fishery resources continue? Coastal stewards from around the nation have developed their vision, called Coastal Futures 2025. Share your views on the future of America's coasts by participating in this internet town meeting.

Purpose of the Meeting

The National Dialogues Partners believe that working together and having common goals leads to better understanding and more effective stewardship. The vision helps each of the Partners become a more informed and effective coastal steward. It enriches our understanding of one another's values, and provides a

reference to be consulted when economic and environmental interests need to be balanced.

How to Participate

Visit the Coastal Futures 2025

Web site:

<http://coast2025.nos.noaa.gov>

When you join the meeting on-line, you will find the vision and goals developed by the National Dialogues Partners, and view other background, including trends information and detailed objectives. You can participate in the dialogue by:

- Responding to critical issues
- Adding your own comments

On the Web site, you can also view national responses to the critical issues, as well as the comments of others.

For more information:

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The National Dialogues Partners
American Association of Port Authorities
Boat Owners Association of the United States
Center for Marine Conservation
The Coastal Society
Coastal States Organization
Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
National Fisheries Institute
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Industries Association

Sample pages from the Coastal Futures 2025 Web site

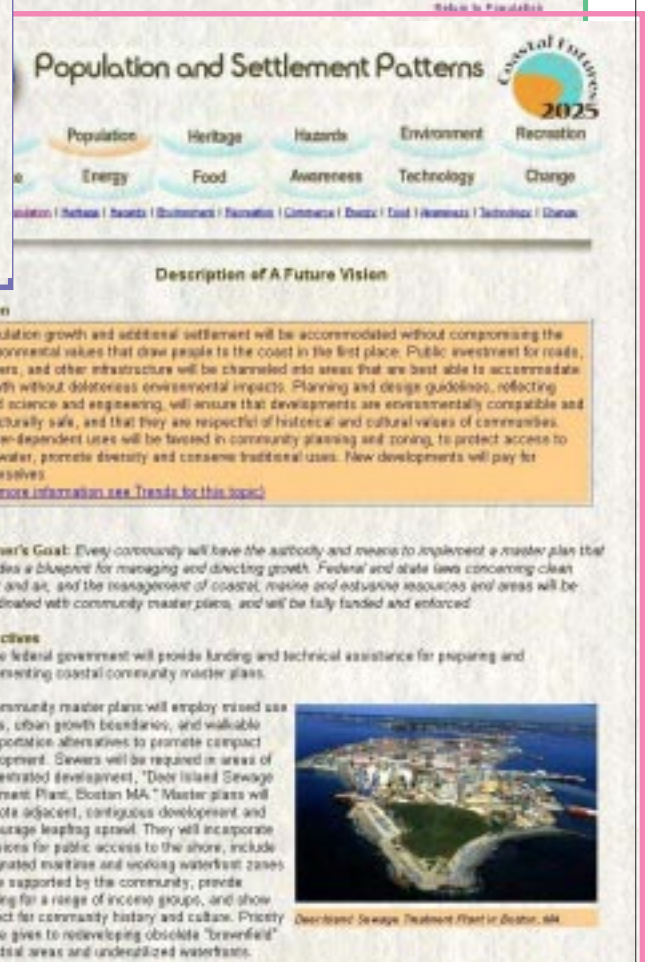
These sample pages from the Coastal Futures 2025 Web site illustrate the **Population and Settlement Patterns** theme. You may log onto the site to share your insights and opinions on the future of America's coasts, and to read others' responses.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links: Home, Population, Heritage, Hazards, Environment, Recreation, Commerce, Energy, Food, Awareness, Technology, and Change. Below this is a section titled "Share Your Perspective" with a link to "Read Coastal Futures 2025 Vision". A featured quote states: "Population growth and additional settlement will be accommodated without compromising the environmental values that draw people to the coast in the first place... [Read more](#)". Below the quote is a link to "Respond to Critical Issues" and a link to "Add Your Comment". At the bottom, there are links for "Home" and "Coast 2025 Home".



The screenshot shows the "Trends" section. It features a quote: "Population growth and its associated impacts may be the most critical issue confronting coastal managers and decision-makers. Coastal areas are crowded and becoming more so. About half the nation's population presently resides in the narrow fringe of coastal counties. From 1995-2015, the coastal population is projected to increase from 141 million to 165 million. Population growth and consequent increases in settlement densities bring jobs, create economic prosperity, add new industry, improve regional infrastructures, opportunities, and increase tax revenues—but they also burden local environments. As well, the natural features that may have attracted people to the coast are lost or pressures lead to increased solid-waste production, higher volumes of urban runoff, and wildlife habitat, declines in ambient water quality, and increased demands on potable water, and energy supplies. To control these kinds of impacts, states and a channel public investment for infrastructure into areas that are best able to without deleterious environmental impacts." Below the quote is a link to "section of the National Dialogue Web site for more information about this topic." and a link to "more Trends information".




The screenshot shows the "Description of A Future Vision" section. It features a quote: "Population growth and additional settlement will be accommodated without compromising the environmental values that draw people to the coast in the first place. Public investment for roads, sewers, and other infrastructure will be channeled into areas that are best able to accommodate growth without deleterious environmental impacts. Planning and design guidelines, reflecting solid science and engineering, will ensure that developments are environmentally compatible and structurally safe, and that they are respectful of historical and cultural values of communities. Water-dependent uses will be favored in community planning and zoning, to protect access to the water, promote diversity and conserve traditional uses. New developments will pay for themselves." Below the quote is a link to "for more information see Trends for this topic".

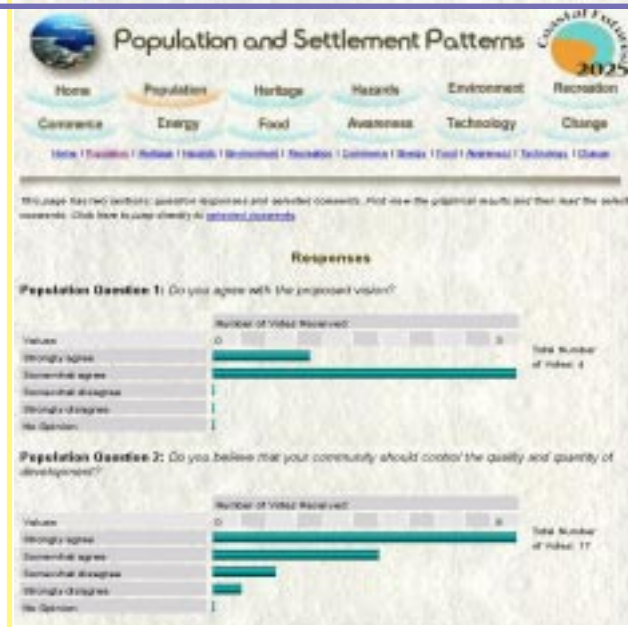
Partner's Goal: Every community will have the authority and means to implement a master plan that provides a blueprint for managing and directing growth. Federal and state laws concerning clean water and air, and the management of coastal, marine and estuarine resources and areas will be coordinated with community master plans, and will be fully funded and enforced.

Objectives

1. The federal government will provide funding and technical assistance for preparing and implementing coastal community master plans.
2. Community master plans will employ mixed use zones, urban growth boundaries, and walkable transportation alternatives to promote compact development. Sewers will be required in areas of concentrated development, "Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant, Boston MA." Master plans will promote adjacent, contiguous development and discourage leapfrog sprawl. They will incorporate provisions for public access to the shore, include designated maritime and working waterfront zones where supported by the community, provide housing for a range of income groups, and show respect for community history and culture. Priority will be given to redeveloping obsolete "brownfield" industrial areas and underutilized waterfronts.



Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant in Boston, MA



The screenshot shows the "Responses" section. It features two questions:

Population Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed vision?

Value	Number of Votes Received
Strongly agree	0
Somewhat agree	4
Somewhat disagree	1
Strongly disagree	1
No Opinion	1

Total Number of votes: 7

Population Question 2: Do you believe that your community should control the quality and quantity of development?

Value	Number of Votes Received
Strongly agree	0
Somewhat agree	11
Somewhat disagree	1
Strongly disagree	1
No Opinion	1

Total Number of votes: 14